

TO: The US Fish and Wildlife Service- ATTENTION Mr. Greg Sanders

RE: Comments on the Supplement to a Final Environmental Impact Statement Pertaining to the Translocation of Southern Sea Otters.

Please add my comments to the record on this Environmental Impact Statement:

In 1977 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the Southern Sea Otter as threatened and 5 years later in 1982 planned a recovery program which would include re-introducing Otters in other areas to expand their range. Sounds familiar doesn't it!

Well an Otter can eat about 15 pounds of shellfish a day and shell fishermen in Southern California were not happy to hear that the FWS would be adding a natural competitor to their fishing areas that could wipe them out. The FWS agreed not to introduce the Otters into certain fishing areas, but the funny thing with wildlife is that they don't abide by our laws, they have a higher law, the law of nature!

The law of nature and the need for food caused the Otters to spread into the forbidden fishing areas anyway and the Human fishermen got pushed further and further out. What used to be a one-day shell-fishing trip would now have to be an overnight journey, but the fishermen plugged along. While the FWS started trying to catch and move the Otters from the fishing areas, the FWS decided that some mortality rates in Otters were rising from the relocation. It didn't seem to matter when the Service was setting up new areas for the Otters, but now it seems the Otters were getting stressed and dying from the move! Didn't this happen when they moved them in the first place?

Well now the FWS wants to Prepare a Supplement to a Final Environmental Impact Statement Pertaining to the Translocation of Southern Sea Otters! OH they can move them to save the Otters but not to help the fishermen! This Organization gave their word that they would do everything they could to keep the Otters out of the fishing areas, but suddenly they are finding reasons to stop the relocating of the Otters. Funny they didn't see it when THEY wanted to move the Otters!

These fishermen are being pushed beyond their limits and they have extended their range to overnight trips, chancing bad weather and risking their lives only to have the US fish and Wildlife Service leave them hanging out to dry! We've seen it with Farming, Ranching, Logging, and now again with another type of fishing!

When Organizations like this give their word and suddenly start rationalizing why they don't have to stand behind their word, then what does their word really stand for in the first place?

NOTHING, ZERO, MEANINGLESS! And this organization controls a major part of Fish and Wildlife laws all across the country!

Expecting a Government Organization, or any other one for that matter, to stand behind their word seems like a simple task to honorable men, but people with different agendas than those they gave their word to, can find rationalizations to cover their dis-honor and go back on their word!

The USFWS is supposed to be the direct link between State level Fish and Wildlife Services and it is their duty to work with these groups not against them! The FWS helped this problem along and now want to dump it on the local fishermen instead of working with them towards a solution.

The USFWS has to realize that sometimes standing by your word is not always an easy thing to do, but it is the "Honorable" thing to do!

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